

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) A tissue ablation device, comprising:
a member defining an expanded size and shape that corresponds to a circumferential region of tissue associated with an orifice of a vein that carries blood to an atrium; and
an ablation element associated with the member and adapted to form a continuous circumferential lesion in ~~a substantial portion of~~ the circumferential region of tissue associated with an orifice of a vein that carries blood to an atrium.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) A tissue ablation device as claimed in claim 44, wherein the member comprises a collapsible member.

48. (Previously Presented) A tissue ablation device as claimed in claim 47, wherein the collapsible member comprises a collapsible loop structure.

49. (Previously Presented) A tissue ablation device as claimed in claim 44, wherein the ablation element comprises an energy emitting structure.

50. (Previously Presented) A tissue ablation device as claimed in claim 49, wherein the ablation element comprises a plurality of spaced energy emitting elements.

51-147. (Canceled)

148. (Previously Presented) A catheter, comprising:
a catheter body; and
means, associated with the catheter body, for forming a lesion in at least a substantial portion of a circumferential region of tissue associated with an orifice of a vein that carries blood to an atrium.

149. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 148, further comprising:
a connector adapted to connect the catheter to an energy source.

150. (Previously Presented) A catheter, comprising:
a catheter body including at least one energy transmission line; and
means, operably connected to the at least one energy transmission line, for simultaneously coupling a continuous circumferential region of tissue that surrounds an orifice of a vein that carries blood to an atrium to energy from the at least one energy transmission line.

151. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 150, further comprising:
a connector adapted to connect the at least one energy transmission line to an energy source.

152. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 150, wherein the at least one energy transmission line comprises a plurality of energy transmission lines.

153. (Previously Presented) A catheter, comprising:
a catheter body; and
means, associated with the catheter body, for expanding within an atrium, contacting a circumferential region of tissue that surrounds an orifice of a vein that carries blood to the atrium, and forming a continuous lesion in the circumferential region of tissue.

154. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 153, further comprising:
a connector adapted to connect the catheter to an energy source.